



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ROCK PORT FIREWORKS DEALER PLEADS GUILTY TO SELLING EXPLOSIVES

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that the owner of a fireworks business in Rock Port, Mo., pleaded guilty in federal court today to selling explosives.

Larry D. Flanagan, 55, of Craig, Mo., waived his right to a grand jury and pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan this morning to a federal information that charges him with engaging in the business of dealing in explosive materials without a license. **Flanagan** is the owner of Liberty Fireworks in Rock Port.

By pleading guilty, **Flanagan** admitted that he distributed explosive materials – DOT class 1.3 display fireworks – on several occasions in 2004. **Flanagan** did not have the license required to deal in such explosive materials, Graves said.

On Aug. 5, 2004, **Flanagan** caused an employee of Liberty Fireworks to sell 29 display fireworks for \$700. On Sept. 3, 2004, **Flanagan** sold 26 display fireworks for \$700. On Dec. 16, 2004, **Flanagan** sold 50 display fireworks for \$1,250. **Flanagan** also admitted that on Dec. 16, 2004, he was in possession with the intent to sell 152 display fireworks. Those display fireworks, Graves added, were all DOT class 1.3 display fireworks that qualify as explosives under federal law.

In total, Graves said, those fireworks yielded approximately 205 pounds of explosives.

Under federal statutes, **Flanagan** could be subject to a sentence of up to 10 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess E. Michaelsen. It was

investigated by the Missouri State Fire Marshal, the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow